

Yosemite I CCC Backcountry Trail Crew  
May 2013 Overview  
Supervisor: Larissa Fullmer

We were welcomed by the spirit of Yosemite as we entered the wilderness and left behind the city lights, personal comforts, and our loved ones. Hungry for the experience and challenge that awaits us. We enjoyed a tour of the valley and were in awe at the granite valleys that we will get to live and work in this summer. We kicked off our season maintaining Yosemite Valley floor trails. Big Oak flat rd., Four mile trail, Tenaya zig zags, Mirror lake, Yosemite falls, and JMT mist trail; an estimation of about 25 miles of maintenance. Clearing drainages, brushing, and logging. We had the opportunity to switch things up and work on rock projects near the valley loop trail to help preserve and maintain existing trail. CM's had the opportunity to work on a variety of rock projects including rip-rap water pans, single-tier walls, checks, and of course becoming crush masters. We sent corps members Kelsi Russell and Kaibin Xian to represent our crew and assist putting up the cables on Half Dome this month. We have been pushing our limits mentally and physically hiking up and down these steep trails. Overall in the time we have spent, we can feel we are getting faster and stronger.

TIPS for when hiking gets hard from the Yos Unos...

"Pretend you are being chased by a ravenous and angry mountain lion."- Tera Lopez

"Sing a song, recite a poem in your head, and keep the beat with your feet. Find your rhythm."-Kelsi Russell.

We are happy to announce that our final crew member Amy Ricciardi from Ohio has joined us. We are now complete, with a lucky number of thirteen.

#### Curriculum-

We are fortunate to have the Yosemite Department of Education teach classes. Shauna Potocky shared a creative journal writing class using art, creative expression, and tips to help CM's fill up their journals and use them as a tool for their experience. Ben Summerfield in the valley museum shared with us the Native American history and culture. We met with Interpretive ranger Shelton Johnson for Q& A forum about NPS careers, buffalo soldiers, and Yosemite history. Shelton & Ben on separate occasions serenaded the crew playing flutes from all over the world. The crew was introduced to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias by Interpretation ranger Chris Raines. We received a brief history on the grove and toured the lower loop. We also saw the amazing rock work and split rail fencing that was done by the Yosemite NPS Trail crew in the last few years. Our crew spent a great amount of time in preparation for our weekend backpacking trips. Covering map reading, route planning, river crossings, bears and wildlife, and Leave No Trace ethics. As David Rogers said; "Leave the cones, rocks, and native artifacts but you can take the spirit of Yosemite with you." Other classes included; intro to backpacking, Mother's day cards, back strength flexibility taught by Agnes Vianzon, what is community? Each member wrote and shared their sobriety pledge for the season, First CM class was taught by Dylan Herndon, inspired by a book he had read "Divergent." We initiated crew biographies with everyone giving a three minute introduction of their life story. Emergency plans and SOAP notes, Endless safety meetings and JHA's to prepare us for a safe summer.

#### Celebrations:

We celebrated our southern gentlemen Mister David Rogers birthday this month. CM Kaibin designed an amazing dirt cake out of earthy material backcountry style to celebrate. We shared a real edible cake, musical instruments, fun, and games at Tenaya beach for a birthday bash. We also celebrate our oldest corps member, CM Tena's birthday at the end of this month. Cinco de mayo was in full swing at

Yosemite 1 camp. We feasted on many Mexican dishes and through the craftiness of the CM's a Piñata bunny with a sombrero was created to join us in our celebration.

Sunday Fun-day has been in the works and so far we have had our home run derby with CM's and sponsors. Up in coming Cadillac poker party, hug rugby, and summer solstice in June. We are looking forward to many more Sundays!

#### Weekend exploration and adventures:

We greeted the month of May with our first hike together as a crew down to Hite's cove, infamous for the spectacular variety of sierra wildflowers. We experienced our first overnight trip at Lake Eleanor as the sky was lighting up during a thunderstorm. A little rain here and there but we enjoyed our time together and lounging at the lake. Our next trip we decided to take advantage of exploring the north end of the park. We did the 14 mile Kibbie Lake loop. It was quite an adventure trying to find the trail. We were able to see how important our jobs as trail workers really are, for helping to keep hikers on the right path by giving them a well-maintained route. In advance we'd like to thank our fellow Yosemite CCC trail crew for they will be clearing and maintaining the Kibbie Lake loop. Thank you YOS DOS! We hiked to Indian peak, North Dome, and down Yosemite falls trail, receiving spectacular views of the valley and half dome. Memorial Day weekend our crew explored out of the Hetch Hetchy area. Paradise meadows, Beehive springs, Jack Main Canyon, Vernon Lake, and Wapama falls were just a few of the destinations for the weekend.

#### Love & Gratitude:

Crew would like to thank NPS team Foreman Jeremy Brown, Rob Herold, Dan Schweitzer, Matt Lutz and cook Harmony Nelson. For welcoming us and for being an amazing team of sponsors that we look forward to spending our summer with.

All the guest teachers for sharing their time, wisdom, high spirits, and knowledge with us.

Our old cook Eric for his delicious meals. Good luck with the YCC this summer!

All the administrative staff here in the park and back at Fortuna CCC center. We couldn't be here without your support.

#### Supervisor Note:

Even after 5 years of living and working in the BC. I am still in awe and amazed by the beauty that exists in the natural world and I am extremely blessed to have the opportunity to work alongside amazing souls this summer. I am restored, renewed, and radiated by the energy that my crew possesses. A month in as a supervisor I have gained so much perspective and personal growth as a C-1. I have always been thankful for the leaders and supervisors who took me under their wings years ago and taught me the ways of trails, backcountry, and community. Only now can I really empathize and understand the sacrifice, determination, focus, strength, but most of all patience that you must possess to help inspire and lead a crew through a transformational experience like this. It is no easy feat, and I want to yell from the tops of the peaks "Thank you!" to any and every supervisor who has ever took up the task and challenge of being a BC supervisor I have nothing but admiration and respect for the sacrifice and hard work you put into making this a phenomenal experience for corps members. Personal Love & gratitude to my 2009 (yes there's three) BC supervisors Jody Weseman, Roxanne Strangefeld, and my hero Remo Fickler. You have all left lasting impressions and wisdom in me. I feel blessed that I can share and pass on what I have learned from you all.

#### Crew Mission Statement:

We 13 individuals gather here in Yosemite National Park from different cities, states, countries, and many diverse walks of life. In order to better ourselves, each other, and the environment. Each of us has given up our lives of modern comfort, said goodbye to our friends and family, and left behind the life we know for 5 ½ months for hard work, low pay, miserable conditions, and more. With us we bring only the worldly possessions we can carry on our backs, but more importantly our open minds and the desire to form a strong, trusting, and loving community. While living simply in the backcountry. We will grow, learn, explore, form long lasting friendships, and bask in the spirit of Yosemite. Just as the massive glaciers once carved Yosemite Valley from the granite. We hope the physical, mental, and emotional stress we will endure will shape & mold us into better people. Our shared experiences and hardships will create a family out of what was thirteen strangers. All the while, we will add to a lasting legacy of previous backcountry trail crews by improving and maintaining the trails in Yosemite. Although our experiences during this summer may differ from our initial expectations, as long as we each do our very best and support each other regardless the circumstances, we will not just survive the season but we will thrive.

“On the same ground you suffer your bloodiest battle; you will celebrate your greatest triumph.”

-Yosemite 1 Backcountry Trail Crew 2013